

REMARKS

Claims 2, 5, 8-13, 28 and 30-31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2 and 28 are amended, and claim 3 is canceled. No new matter is added.

I. Claim For Priority

The Examiner is requested to acknowledge a claim for priority in the next Patent Office communication.

II. Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner is requested to consider the references cited in the March 5, 2002 Information Disclosure Statement (IDS). As indicated in the March 5, 2002 IDS, the relevance of the references is discussed in the specification. The Examiner is requested to provide Applicant with a copy of the March 5, 2002 PTO-1449 form with the reference citations initialed as considered. The Examiner also is requested to consider the information identified in the November 2, 2007 Information Disclosure Statement.

III. Allowed and Allowable Claims

Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claims 8-13 and 30-31 are allowed and that claims 3 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

IV. The Claims are Patentable Over the Applied References

The Office Action rejects claims 2 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Japanese Patent Publication No. 09-264780 to Ema et al. (Ema). This rejection is moot.

By this Amendment, independent claims 2 and 28 are amended to include all of the features of allowable claims 3 and 5, respectively. Thus, independent claims 2 and 28, and their dependent claims, should be allowed. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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